

COMMUNITY REPORT

HAWAII KAI • KULIOUOU • NIU VALLEY • AINA HAINA • WAIALAE/KAHALA • KAIMUKI

Representative Lyla B. Berg

January 2010



Aloha Friends and Neighbors,

Hau'oli Makahiki Hou! Happy New Year!

The 2010 legislative year is now upon us and I return to session with renewed energy and fresh ideas. My focus continues to be on ensuring that the well-being of our keiki and our island State are placed at the center of decision making here at the Legislature. Further, while 2009 was marked by financial and economic challenges that affected many of us, I remain

optimistic that we will see movement toward the restoration of our economy and a return to the tried-and-true ways of Hawai'i Nei—ways that have allowed us to be self-reliant and strong in the face of adversity.

Together we can make a significant difference in this precious place we call home and I invite you to contact my office to share your thoughts and concerns. I am honored to serve as your State Representative and encourage you to let me know how I can best help our community grow and flourish.

Me ke aloha nui,

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENT—Come Join Us!

“Capitol Arts: A Creative Experience” Friday, April 9, 2010

*“What art offers is space—a certain breathing room for the spirit”
(John Updike, novelist, poet, and literary critic)*

Every year Rep. Berg sponsors a day at the Capitol for community groups and non-profit agencies to gather in common message. For the past five years, “Human Rights Day” has been the focus of collaborative action. This year, Rep. Berg’s office will host a similar day of exhibits, presentations, and networking opportunities focusing on the arts as a vehicle for encouraging citizens to learn how to have their voices heard.

The arts constitute the lifeblood of society and are the foundation for individual self-esteem, community creative expression, and economic prosperity. They can be appreciated in a variety of ways -- visual, performing, music, dance, filmic, culinary. While many may regard these endeavors as enjoyable pastime activities or hobbies, they, in fact, constitute a viable addition to strengthen our economy and enhance the well-being of our communities.

“Capitol Arts” will be held on Fri., April 9, from 10 am – 2 pm on the 3rd floor at the Capitol. The purpose of this exciting day is to celebrate and promote the arts—increase patronage, encourage philanthropy, and support participation. Please let Rep. Berg’s office know if you or your organization would like to have a table and be part of our creative experience at the Capitol. (Contact Office Manager Jen Wilbur at 586-6510).

Legislative Schedule 2010

OPENING DAY OF LEGISLATURE
January 20

LAST DAY TO INTRODUCE BILLS
January 27

FIRST CROSSOVER
March 4

SECOND CROSSOVER
April 8

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE
April 29

Mark Your Calendar

FRIDAY, APRIL 9
CAPITOL ARTS:
A CREATIVE EXPERIENCE

Committee Assignments:

Education (Vice-Chair)

Agriculture

Economic Revitalization,
Business, & Military Affairs

Higher Education

Tourism, Culture, &
International Affairs



For information on legislative
measures:
www.capitol.hawaii.gov

Pupukahi i Holomua
Unite to move forward

The Women's Legislative Caucus Package

Established over twenty years ago, the Women's Legislative Caucus is comprised of the entire female legislative body in both the House and Senate of the Hawai'i State Legislature. I am extremely proud to be a part of this wonderful group of women, who work hard to assure justice for women in all aspects of their lives. The Caucus has chosen "Assuring Justice for Women" as the theme of the 2010 legislative package (see page 8). Other initiatives taken by the Caucus to help the women of Hawai'i include an Easter basket drive that benefits clients of the Institute for Human Services and community outreach to educate women on cervical cancer prevention.

2010 marks a significant milestone for the women's labor movement. According to a recent article in the *Economist*, American women have surpassed the 50% threshold to become the majority of the US workforce. However, there is still significant progress to be made in the area of economic equality. Women still only comprise 2% of the CEOs of America's largest companies, and are still paid significantly less than men on average. Despite these unsatisfactory statistics, there is much to celebrate as women continue to shatter the glass ceiling.

This year, the Women's Legislative Caucus celebrates the life of Donnis Thompson by dedicating to her the 2010 Women's Legislative Caucus Package. Ms. Thompson was a pioneer in women's athletics, an advocate for the development of women's rights through sports, and the first female director of athletics at the University of Hawai'i. She passed away in 2009.

The League of Women Voter's at the MLK Day Parade **Monday, January 18, 2010**

Established by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Coalition in 1998, the 22nd Annual Parade is used to honor and remember the civil rights leader and to promote social change and justice, non-violent resolutions to conflict, global peace, and the eradication of poverty. This year's parade focused on one of Dr. King's many uplifting and unifying statements: "We may have all come on different ships, but we're in the same boat now." Nowhere else in the world is such a statement so relevant than in Hawai'i Nei, where many peoples have converged over the centuries.



Photo (L-R): Rep. Lyla Berg, Elizabeth Reilly (Hawai'i Kai Neighborhood Board), Pi'ilani Kaopuiki (Pres. League of Women Voters), Evangeline Yacuk (League Member).

Rep. Berg's January Activities

- January 6-8: The Education Commission of the States, New Orleans. The meeting involved three days of intense discussion with legislative colleagues from across the country to create strategies to: 1) reduce the number of students leaving high school requiring remediation before being ready for work or college, 2) accelerate the retooling of the current adult workforce, and 3) align workforce and labor demands. Key speakers included Glenn Cummings, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Vocational and Adult Education US Department of Education, and Jane Oates, Assistant Secretary of Employment and Training Administration with the US Department of Labor.
- January 12-14: The National Child Policy Conference, Miami, Florida. During this highly interactive conference, participants worked in teams to identify strategies, partnerships, and a viable plan to move closer to the goal of improving policies, funding, and investment for children in their state. David Lawrence, President of the Early Childhood Initiative Foundation and a former newspaper publisher, offered an insightful and critically informed presentation.

Farmers' Markets

Support local farmers and check out these markets if you're in the area:



Kaiser High School: 511 Lunalilo Home Rd, front of Kaiser High School. Tuesday, 4-7pm.

Honolulu Farmers' Market: Neal S. Blaisdell Center, Ward Avenue and Kapiolani Blvd. Wednesday, 4-7pm.

The Kailua Thursday Night Farmers' Market: Kailua Rd, Kailua Parking Garage behind Longs. Thursday, 5-7.30pm.

KCC Farmers' Market: Kapiolani Community College Campus, Parking Lot. Saturday, 7.30-11am.

“Leader for a Day Essay” Program

The “Leader for a Day” Essay Program, coordinated annually by Rep. Berg’s office, marks its 4th competition this year as public school students, statewide, in grades 6 – 12 were invited to submit their entries for the opportunity to be selected to “shadow” an elected official. Students wrote about an historic place and explained why it is significant to their community. They were also asked to propose a plan, as an elected official, to ensure the protection and preservation of that site.

Over 300 entries were submitted – a heartening indication that the youth of Hawai‘i are eager to share their valuable *mana‘o* (thoughts) and offer solutions to issues. The selected essayists will “shadow” the Governor, Lt. Governor, each County Mayor, the DOE Superintendent, and various State Legislators on **Fri., March 12, 2010**. A warm congratulations to all who participated!

Meet Our Staff

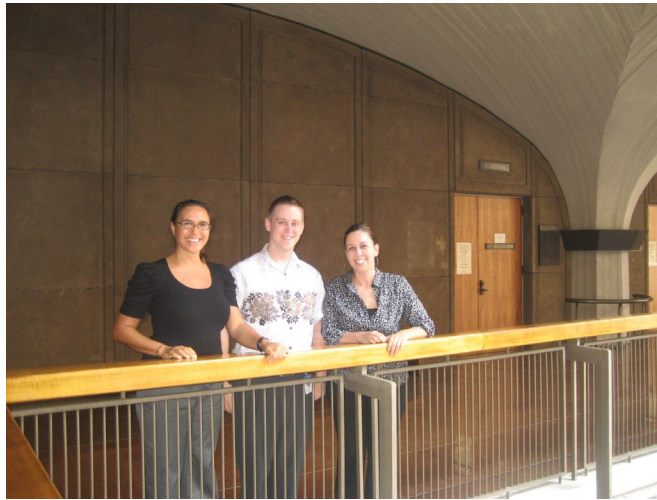


Photo (R-L): Jen Wilbur, Matt Prellberg, and Marata Tamaira

Jen Wilbur is the Office Manager for Representative Berg. She holds a bachelor’s degree in Ethnic Studies from California State University, Sacramento, and is pursuing a master’s degree in Ethnic Studies as well.

Matt Prellberg is the Committee Clerk and also carries out research work for the Representative. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Political Science with a minor in Religion from the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa (UHM). Matt’s background is filled with ventures in public service as he feels that there is no greater reward than helping his community.

Marata Tamaira hails from the Ngati Tuwharetoa tribe of Aotearoa/New Zealand and holds a bachelor’s degree in Anthropology from the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa (UHM). In May 2009 she completed her master’s degree in Pacific Islands studies, also at UHM, and hopes to pursue a PhD in her chosen field of research in the near future.

Voices for Change: New Television Series for Rep. Berg

Hosted by Rep. Berg, the goal of *Voices for Change* is to give voice to community members from every island who are concerned about the preservation and protection of Hawai‘i’s sacred, cultural, historic, and natural sites. These sites are important, because they inform us of our history, they are tied to our economic development, and they can offer alternative solutions to contemporary issues. **The program airs every Wednesday at 7:30 pm on ‘Olelo Channel 52 and can also be accessed via video-on-demand at olelo.org.**

Guests on *Voices for Change* include:

Kaleo Paik – Community consultant for historic preservation discussing the ongoing difficulties at the Sate Historic Preservation Division of DLNR, focusing on the Hawea Heiau Complex in Hawai‘i Kai.

Chuck Flaherty – Kona resident speaking about the Kona Field System, which is over 1,000 years old and has been partially destroyed.

Tamar DeFries – Papakolea resident expressing concerns about the proposal to create a National Heritage Area which includes downtown, Liliha, Nuuanu, and Chinatown.

Kehaulani Souza – a cultural archeologist who is concerned about the residents and the future of Mokauea Island.

Education Updates

On January 22, 2010, the House Education Committee convened a joint briefing with the Senate to provide information on the Hawai'i State Department of Education's budget. Below is a brief outline of the information shared in that briefing.

Hawai'i State Public Library System (HSPLS)

- The Governor has mandated reductions equivalent to 13.85% (or \$2,966,390) for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.
- The general fund budget for Fiscal Year 2010 of \$25,880,773 has been reduced by over \$5 million (20% less than the general fund budget for Fiscal Year 2009).
- The HSPLS froze all vacant positions, eliminated all general funds for books and materials, reduced temporary and student hires, and negotiated our current 30-day furlough plan for the Fiscal Budget 2009-2011 with the union.

Alternative Revenue for HSPLS:

- HSPLS will receive grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, totaling \$1.25 million.
- HSPLS was awarded a \$580,000 Opportunities Online Hardware Grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- The Friends of the Library of Hawai'i (FLH) will provide a matching contribution totaling \$823,200 for much needed HSPLS computer, network, and infrastructure upgrades to eligible libraries.
- To anticipate future budget cuts and restrictions, HSPLS has launched a fundraising campaign, "Keep Your Library Open" in conjunction with the FLH "Keep the Doors Open Campaign."

Find ways you can help Hawai'i's libraries. Contact your local libraries "Friends" Chapter and plan a creative fundraiser!

Charter Schools

- The Charter School Commission recommended a rewriting of the Charter School Statute due to sustained contention over funding, a lack of clarity regarding roles, ongoing questions concerning accountability and the need for more transparency of funding within the DOE, and the Charter School system

Recent statistics regarding Charter School Enrollments and Per Pupil Amounts:

- 2006-07: 5,812 enrolled @ \$7,331.79 per pupil
- 2007-08: 6,131 enrolled @ \$8,149.83 per pupil
- 2008-09: 7,603 enrolled @ 7,588.52 per pupil
- 2009-10: 8,098 enrolled @ 5,753.18 per pupil
- 2010-11 9,668 enrolled @ 4,916.69 per pupil

Department of Education (DOE) (2009 statistics):

% of students with special needs

No Special Needs: 48%
Economically Disadvantaged: 31%
Multiple Special Needs: 13%
Special Education: 5%
English Second Language Learners:

DOE Official Enrollment (includes Special Education: Pre-K to 12):

- 2007-08: 173,897
- 2008-09: 172,078
- 2009-10: 172,327
- 2010-11 projection: 172,210

For information on Weighted Student Formulas, please go to the Department of Education's Web site at: <http://reach.k12.hi.us/empowerment/wsf/>

CIP and Repair & Maintenance Allocations for area schools:

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Aina Haina | 365,000 |
| Hahaione Elementary | 310,000 |
| Kahala Elementary | 408,000 |
| Kaiser High School | 625,000 |
| Kalani High School | 1,132,000 |
| Niu Valley Middle | 421,000 |
| Waialae Elementary | 295,000 |
| Wilson Elementary | 419,000 |

**2010 Census Information**

The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States, both citizens and non-citizens. Census data helps with the allocation of more than \$300 billion to states and communities; guides planning for new hospitals, roads, job training centers, schools, and more; helps determine the need for additional social services, block grants, and other grant programs essential to many communities; informs a wide range of local initiatives; and, determines the number of seats each state will have in the US House of Representatives. The census helps define who we are as a nation and where critical resources are needed to ensure the growth of healthy communities.

The census is taken every ten years, and this year Census Day is April 1, 2010. The US Census Bureau will be sending out an official census form to all households in the United States for residents to fill out. I encourage you to participate in this very important process so that your voice can be heard.

For more information about the 2010 Census, go to www.2010census.gov

Program and Job Opportunities***The Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps Summer 2010 Program***

The Hawai'i Youth Conservation Corps summer program is an awesome opportunity for high school and college students (high school sophomores through college sophomores). Participants choose to work on one of the five base islands for the program which include: O'ahu, Kaua'i, Moloka'i, Hawai'i Island, and Maui. During this six weeks, participants are given the chance of a life time to work in some of the most amazing and beautiful ecosystems that Hawai'i has to offer. While assisting the professional experts in protecting the environment, members will learn about natural resource management through hands-on field experiences.

This is an absolutely free program! All program costs such as training, transportation, camping, and equipment costs are covered. Participants receive a \$1,000 stipend upon successful completion of the program and can earn three college credits from the University of Hawai'i, Manoa in Ethno-botany. Apply now! (**www.hawaiiyc.com**).

Pono Pacific 2010

Join the Pono Pacific crew at Maunalua Bay as we remove invasive alien algae over the next year. Full and part time positions are available for crew members and crew leaders. Starting pay is \$11 to \$12 per hour for crew members and \$18 per hour for crew leaders.

Please visit www.ponopacific.com for more information and for an application packet.

Applications are due by January 27, 2010.

Foster Parent Information

"Answering the Call—You don't have to be perfect to be a perfect parent. There are thousands of teens in foster care who would love to put up with you."

There are 2,766 children in foster care in Hawai'i. While not for everyone, the opportunity to become a foster parent can be a rewarding and satisfying way to contribute to the well-being of our community.

Licensing Requirements for Foster or Adoption

The minimum qualifications for foster and adoptive parents are:

- Have sufficient income to cover your financial needs.
- Ability to provide a safe, loving, supportive environment for foster and/or adoptive children.
- Must pass required FBI background clearance, State Criminal History clearance (for all states resided in for the past 5 years), and Child Abuse and Neglect registry check.
- Successfully complete the pre-service training and the homestudy process.
- Must have sufficient space in your home and meet all other licensing criteria, according to state law.

To download and print full licensing requirements go to http://www.hawaii.gov/dhs/main/har/har_current/AdminRules/document_view. Under the heading for Child Welfare Services, click the link next to "Adoption Services" (17-805) and "Certification of Foster Family Board Homes for Children" (17-890).

Contact Information

Hui Ho'omalulu, a program of Partners in Development Foundation

Doris Taitague

(808) 441-1134 or Toll Free: 1-888-879-8970

dtaitague@pidfoundation.org

Rep. Berg's Interim Activities

Teachers without Borders, South Africa. Summer 2009.

Each summer, Rep. Berg volunteers her professional experience and passion for teaching with the non-profit organization, Teachers without Borders (<http://iws.punahou.edu/user/ypeer/sa/>).



Left: Rep. Berg and fellow participant of Teachers without Borders, South Africa.



Above: Rep. Berg with her leadership class of rural school principals in Mthatha, Eastern Cape, South Africa. The focus of Rep. Berg's seminars is administrative effectiveness and organization development.

2010 Proposed and Pending Legislation Introduced by Representative Berg

| HB/HCR NUMBER | DESCRIPTION OF BILL | Committee Referral |
|------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| HB 2483 | SHARK FEEDING; SIGNAGE Requires DLNR to adopt rules for the development and placement of signs notifying the public of laws prohibiting the feeding of sharks. | <i>Pending introduction</i> |
| HB XXX | RELATING TO DAMAGE TO A PLACE OF BURIAL Makes it unlawful to negligently or intentionally cause damage to a place of burial. | <i>Pending introduction</i> |
| HB 2486 | RELATING TO EDUCATION Establishes a minimum number of instructional hours per school year for each grade. | <i>Pending introduction</i> |
| HB 2485 | RELATING TO EDUCATION Clarifies the duty of school community councils to review and approve the academic and financial plans of their respective schools. Removing the authority of principals to set aside any decision made by school community councils. | <i>Pending introduction</i> |
| HB 2246 | RELATING TO MOORING IN MARINE LIFE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS | <i>Pending introduction</i> |
| HB 2244 | RELATING TO SURFACE WATER: NATURAL SPRINGS | <i>Pending introduction</i> |
| HB XXX | RELATING TO PROHIBITION OF SHARK TOURS | <i>Pending introduction</i> |
| HB 2484 | RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION Establishes fines for the knowing destruction of heiau on private lands. | <i>Pending introduction</i> |
| HB XXX | STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION MANAGEMENT AUDIT | <i>Pending introduction</i> |
| HCR XXX | REQUESTING A FINANCIAL & MANAGEMENT AUDIT OF DOE | <i>Pending introduction</i> |
| HCR XXX | REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO CREATE A DATABASE RESOURCE WEBSITE TO HOUSE REAL-TIME AVAILABILITY OF ALL JUVENILE SERVICES FROM THE LOWEST LEVEL OF CARE TO THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF CARE FOR THE APPROPRIATE PLACEMENT OF JUVENILES IN HAWAII. | <i>Pending introduction</i> |
| HB 1675 | RELATING TO MOKAUEA ISLAND Authorizes DLNR to renegotiate leases with residents of Mokauea Island to facilitate creation of an educational center where students, teachers, and other members of the public can learn the traditional methods used in a self-sustaining Hawaiian fishing village. | <i>WLO/HAW, JUD, FIN</i> |
| HB 398 | RELATING TO FIREWORKS Allows counties to enact ordinances or adopt rules regulating fireworks that are more restrictive than state law regulating fireworks under chapter 132 D, HRS. | <i>PBS, JUD</i> |
| HB 397 | RELATING TO FIREWORKS | <i>PBS, JUD, FIN</i> |

How you can get involved in the legislative process

To obtain online information regarding the status of measures, log on to the Hawai'i State Legislature Web site www.capitol.hawaii.gov. Click on "Bill Status & Documents." For more questions, call the Public Access Room phone (808) 587-0478

Women's Caucus Legislative Package

| Bill No. | Measure Title | Report Title | Description |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| HB1939 | Relating To Employment Relations | Employment Practices; Domestic Violence | Prohibits employers from discriminating against an employee or applicant for employment based upon the employee's or the applicant's status as a victim of domestic violence. |
| HB2150 | Relating To Crime | First Offender Prostitution Program | Provides that patrons of prostitutes who are convicted of a first offense shall be required to pay \$500 surcharge and complete an 8-hour educational and counseling program. Establishes a special fund to fund and administer the program. |
| HB1938 | Relating To Crime | Promoting Prostitution | Gives priority, regarding witness security and protection, to proceedings and investigations involving the prosecution of promoting prostitution. Provides that kidnapping offenses shall not be reduced to class B felonies if the offense involves unlawfully obtaining the labor or services of the kidnapped person. Increases the felony classifications for promoting prostitution in the first, second, and third degree. |
| HB1940 | Relating To Crime | Human Trafficking Offenses; Crime | Establishes class A, B, and C, felony sexual human trafficking offenses and class A, B, and C felony labor trafficking offenses, and provisions related to prosecution of the offenses. |
| HB335 <i>From 2009 Session</i> | Relating to an Automated Victim Notification System | Crime Victims; Notification | Establishes a statewide automated victim notification system to provide victims of crime with current information regarding the custody status of the offender in the victim's case. |
| HB423 <i>From 2009 Session</i> | Relating To Emergency Contraceptives For Sexual Assault Survivors | Sexual Assault; Emergency Contraception | Requires hospitals to provide information about emergency contraception to women who are sexually assaulted and to provide emergency contraception when requested. Provides for administrative penalties for noncompliance. |

| # | Reso. No. | Description |
|-----------------------|-----------|--|
| HCXXX HRXX SRXX | | Requesting the Legislative Reference Bureau to conduct a study regarding technical feasibility and legal implications of replacing references to prostitution in the Hawaii revised statutes with the term commercial sexual exploitation. |
| HCXXX HRXX SRXX | | Honoring the international conference on population and development program of action on the occasion of its fifteenth anniversary and urging the United States to recommit to the eradication of global poverty and gender inequality. |
| HCXXX | | Strongly urging the inclusion of protections for women's health care, including women's reproductive health services, in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. |

